Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented)   An image inputting and outputting apparatus comprising:

document management means for registering document image data in memory means by adding a document ID to identify said document image data on the basis of user's instructions,

pattern composition means for generating document image data with document ID mark by integrating a document ID mark corresponding to said document ID and a specific page of said document image data,

output means for outputting the document image data with document ID mark from said pattern composition means, and

dialog-type control means for inquiring of a user if the reading of a document for generating said document image data is completed or not, and giving a completion notice of reading the document to said document management means,

wherein said document management means is configured for, upon receipt of the completion notice, registering said document image data in the memory means by correlating the document image data with the document ID.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said dialog-type control means is configured for inquiring of the user if the reading of the document by document image inputting means is completed after the last page of the document is read by the document image inputting means.

4. (Previously Presented) The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said dialog-type control means is configured for inquiring of the user if the reading of the document by document image inputting means is completed before the last page of the document is read by the document image inputting means.

5-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An image inputting and outputting apparatus for registering document image data in memory means and managing said document image data being correlated with a document ID so that the document image data can be fetched when the document ID corresponding to said document image data is given, said apparatus comprising:

document management means configured for performing a first function to specify document image data on the basis of a latest registration record or a latest fetching record for the document image data in the memory means and configured for performing a second function to specify document image data on the basis of an inputted document ID corresponding to the document image data; and

dialog-type control means for directing a selective switchover between said two functions.

21. (Currently Amended)   The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in ~~claim 19 or~~ claim 20 wherein said memory means is at least one out of hard disk, removable media and network-connected server.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended)   The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in ~~claim 19 or~~ claim 20 wherein in case no document image data has just been fetched, document image data to be fetched is specified on the basis of the latest registration record in the memory means.

25. (Currently Amended)   The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in ~~claim 19 or~~ claim 20 wherein said document management means is provided with an attribute management table where a document ID corresponding to document image data in the memory means is written, and

wherein date and time of latest registration or latest fetching of document image data are added to said attribute management table as the latest registration record or the latest fetching record so that document image data to be fetched can be specified based on said date and time of the latest registration or the latest fetching of the document image data.

26. (Currently Amended)   [[The]] An image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in claim 19 for registering document image data in memory means and managing said document image data being correlated with a document ID so that the document image data can be fetched when the document ID corresponding to said document image data is given, said apparatus comprising:

document management means for specifying document image data on the basis of a latest registration record or a latest fetching record for the document image data in the memory means, instead of inputting the corresponding document ID, wherein

said document management means is provided with an attribute management table where a document ID corresponding to document image data in the memory means is written, and

date and time of latest registration or latest fetching of document image data are added to said attribute management table as the latest registration record or the latest fetching record so that document image data to be fetched could be specified based on said date and time of the latest registration or the latest fetching of the document image data,

said image inputting and outputting apparatus further comprising dialog-type control means for inputting an instruction to fetch document image data based on the date and time of the latest registration or the latest fetching of the document image data.

27. (Currently Amended)   The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in claim 19 or claim 20, further comprising user authentication means for inputting a user ID allocated to each user to authenticate said user,

wherein said document management means is configured for specifying document image data based on the latest registration record or the latest fetching record of the document image data for said user ID.

28. (Previously Presented)   The image inputting and outputting apparatus as defined in claim 20, wherein

said document management means is provided with an attribute management table where a document ID corresponding to document image data in the memory means is written,

date and time of latest registration or latest fetching of document image data are added to said attribute management table as the latest registration record or the latest fetching record so that document image data to be fetched could be specified based on said date and time of the latest registration or the latest fetching of the document image data, and

said dialog-type control means for inputting an instruction to fetch document image data based on the date and time of the latest registration or the latest fetching of the document image data.